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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

JUL 19 2006

SINCE 1877
Y 13, 2006
VOL. 130
No. 27



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

'Katrina kids' receive Gospel message

By Teresa Dickens
Correspondent

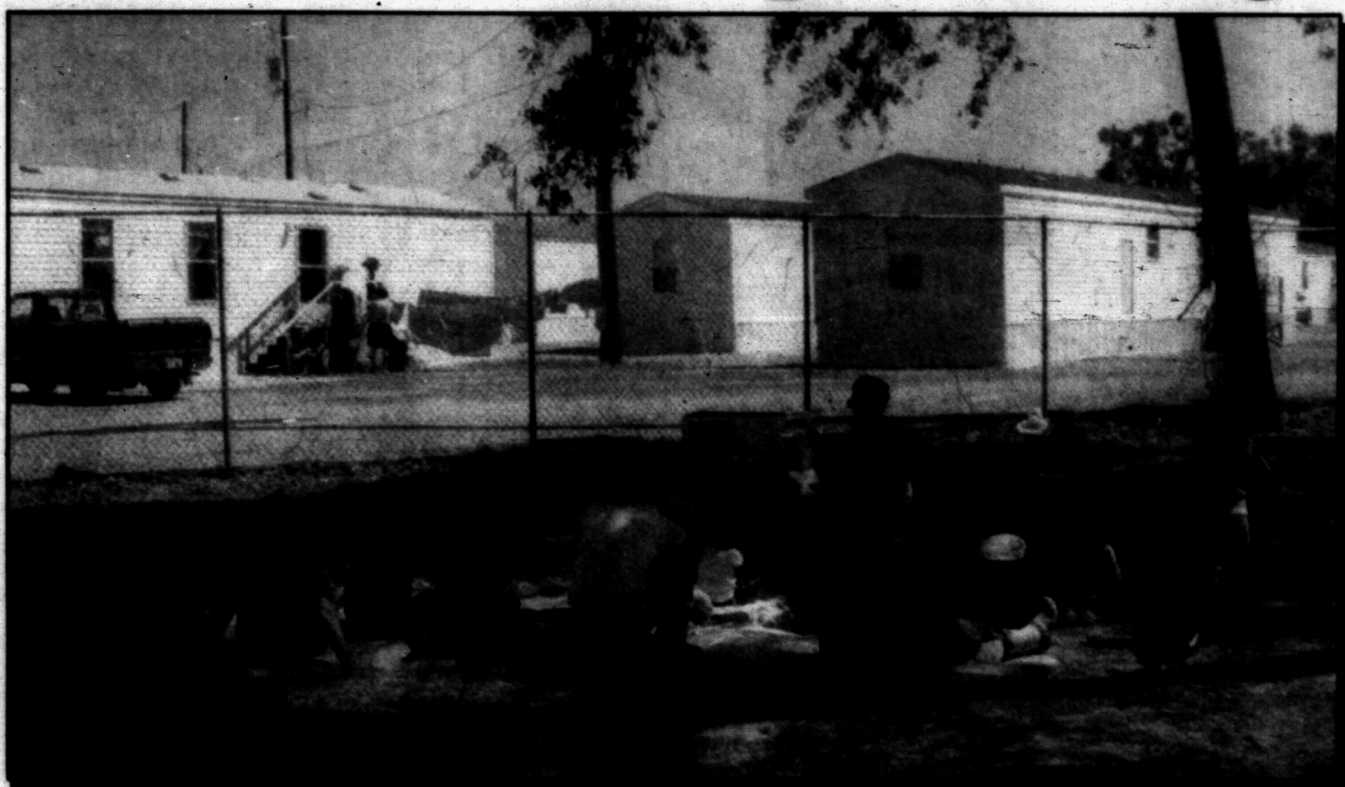
BILOXI, Miss. (BP) — Biloxi Pointe Mobile Home Park has had a national audience. It was featured on Extreme Makeover: Home Edition — After the Storm, Mississippi, on March 22. The residents were given washers and dryers and a Sears gift card by the ABC show.

On May 19-21, the FEMA mobile home park was visited by a different "makeover" group. The six-member team from First Church, Madison, was on a spiritual makeover mission. They were there to conduct a Vacation Bible School (VBS) event.

On Friday afternoon, the team conducted a carnival-type event and handed out fliers to every unit about a Saturday five-hour Bible club. The weekend event concluded on Sunday with a worship service.

The Madison efforts resulted in 13 children coming out for the Saturday event under the shade trees adjacent to the park, and six children returned for the Sunday morning service. Parents and other adults wandered in and out of the activities.

This scene was repeated eight other times by churches in Mississippi on May 5-7 and May



COOL SPOT — Members of First Church, Madison, conduct Vacation Bible School in a shady area at the FEMA-sponsored Biloxi Pointe Mobile Home Park in Biloxi on May 19-21. The park has about 25 travel trailers that house victims left homeless by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. (BP photo by Mike Hartley)

19-21. The clubs were sponsored by a grant from LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention and coordinated by Linda Reeves, preschool/children's Sunday school consultant with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

LifeWay donated curriculum from last year's Ramblin' Road Trip-themed VBS to use during the clubs.

The nine Bible clubs drew 132 preschoolers, children, and youth, and resulted in 10 professions of faith. Gulf Coast Association will coordinate follow-up with all of the families.

All of the Bible clubs were held in FEMA mobile home parks that have sprung up since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Mississippi coastline last August. The parks are filled with hundreds of families who are still struggling to rebuild their lives.

"The weekend experiences were a great encouragement to the families, especially the children," Reeves said. "These children need our love and support as they are living this disaster daily. Our teams were able to share Jesus through VBS."

Several of the preschool and children's ministers who led the nine teams talked about the children being "like sponges."

"The children were so needy," said Delayne Morris, director of

preschool ministries at Carriage Hills Church in Southaven. "They soaked up the attention we gave them. We just had too little time with them."

Stacey Covey, a member of First Church, Richland, agreed. "These children were very hungry for attention and love," she said, "and they were not hard to love, considering how easy it is to love children."

"It was truly amazing to see the bond that can form between strangers in such a short time. It was very hard leaving them. Some of our team members sent pictures to the families we met within days of returning home. We do hope to go for another daytrip to check up on the families in the park."

Cindy Sansing also noted the hunger for spiritual things.

"The children soaked up the stories we shared," said Sansing, minister to preschoolers and children at Liberty Church in Flowood. "Our group had little knowledge of the Bible or things we expect children in Mississippi to know — some of them had never heard the song 'Jesus Loves Me.'"

One of the Madison volunteers noted the resilience of the children.

"I was reminded of the way tiny flowers push through the cracks in concrete walls as I saw the faces of the children at

our site," said Faira Bishop, a member of First Church, Madison. "These children had been through such a horrendous time in the storm. Yet their ability to have fun and to see life as a joyful experience persisted and came through."

Like any missions experience, the team's plans were often changed, adjusted, and sometimes eliminated. While this caused disappointment and frustration, in the end the volunteers concluded that God's plans were accomplished at the sites.

"We went to share our best — the love of Jesus for these kids — and they were receptive," Bishop said. "At Bible story time, they listened and responded to my questions. They enthusiastically sang along with our guitarist; they created VBS necklaces and other crafts with studious intent; and they giggled delightedly during hide-and-go-seek at recreation time."

"Through it all, we wanted to let them know that we loved them and that Jesus cares for them. From the expressions on their faces and their reluctance to see us go, this is what I feel we accomplished with these children."

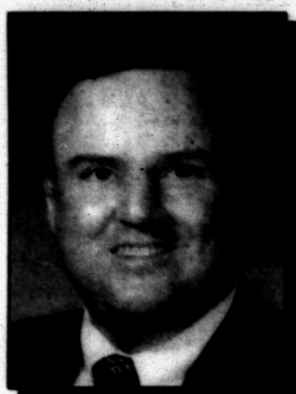
Dickens is minister to preschoolers and family at First Church, Madison.



VBS INFO — Trish Apperson, member of First Church, Madison, hands an informational flyer to a resident of Biloxi Pointe Mobile Home Park in Biloxi announcing Vacation Bible School (VBS) times and locations for children who live in the area. Biloxi Pointe is one of many parks across the Mississippi Gulf Coast that were set up in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to house storm victims who lost their homes. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



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Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
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Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

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VOLUME 130 • NUMBER 27
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

At press time, Bobby Glen Wilcher was awaiting the executioner's needle on Death Row at Parchman State Penitentiary for the particularly brutal knife slayings in 1982 of two women who agreed to give him a ride home from a Scott County night club.

Wilcher has admitted that he committed the murders, after one of the women slapped him. He left their bodies along the country road where he killed them and was stopped later by a Forest policeman while driving the car belonging to one of the women. The bodies had not yet been found and, to explain the blood that drenched his clothes, he told the policeman that he had been cleaning a small animal.

Wilcher was arrested after the bodies were discovered and subsequently convicted of capital murder. His conviction and sentencing were overturned several times, but he was always reconvicted and resented to death on the weight of the evidence and heinousness of the crimes.

There is no doubt that Bobby Glen Wilcher committed the murders. He has said so and expressed his intent to drop all appeals so his execution by lethal injection can proceed. From published reports, it seems that Wilcher, his family, and the victims' families have all resigned themselves to his execution.

One important item in this sordid story has been largely overlooked, however. We know that his rage toward these two mid-

'It will control you'



dle-aged mothers of 14 was fueled in part by alcohol. We also know that such murderous rages are often fueled by alcohol.

"If I would never have ever touched any drugs or liquor or anything like that, no doubt that I would have never committed any crime. But I did. It's addicting. You play around with it. You will not control it. It will control you," he said in a 1988 interview with the then-publisher of The Scott County Times, Sid Salter. Salter is now Perspectives editor of The Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, and excerpts from his interview with Wilcher were republished in the July 9 issue of The Clarion-Ledger.

Many Mississippians — and regrettably, some Mississippi Baptists — would argue that the consumption of alcohol is a harmless social activity with little or no consequences, especially when used properly and in "moderation" (whatever that is).

Bobby Glen Wilcher might beg to differ, and a lot of people would agree with him. Drawing on its actuarial database, the Health Insurance Plan of New York believes that:

- alcohol-related disorders are associated with a significant increase in the risk of accidents, violence, and suicide.

- more than half of all highway fatalities involve a driver or pedestrian who has been drinking.

- more than half of all murderers and/or their victims are intoxicated with alcohol at the time of the murder.

So rampant is the problem of alcohol and violence that Florida State University in Tallahassee has seen fit to place the following notice citing the danger of alcohol in the school's Standards of Conduct (excerpted):

Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. It may increase aggressiveness, lower inhibitions, cloud judgement, reduce resistance, and hamper the ability to make decisions... Moderate doses of alcohol may increase the odds of a variety of aggressive acts (violent crimes), including murder, rape, assault, vandalism, spouse and child abuse, and drunk driving.

If such a terrible substance can cause such irreparable damage, why do we allow it in our state? That's a question that's been asked by grieving residents millions of times since legislators first approved the sale of legalized alcohol in Mississippi in the 1960s.

The Wilcher case has devastated more people and families in just this one instance than all of alcohol's worth as a tax generator and recreational activity.

We allow alcohol to be sold in our name in Mississippi, and our indifference to this ravenous scourge is a true representation of how little we care for our fellow man. We shall continue to reap what we sow.

Until you see it, you really can't believe what happens every August in Sturgis, Mississippi.

On the third weekend of the month, my little town of about 270 people swells in population to a size well above 30,000 people. This year, we expect 50,000 people.

These thousands of people come in every year riding their motorcycles, to look at more bikes and to have a good time. They want to meet people and, from what I am told, one thing they really enjoy about Sturgis is the small town's easygoing hospitality.

This August marks the tenth anniversary of "The South's Warmest Welcome," the Sturgis South Motorcycle Rally. It also presents an opportunity for us to be involved in a major missions effort to reach thousands.

For three years now, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) has invested time, money, and the Gospel in this rally. Last year, volunteers from churches around the state and the Southeast helped present the Gospel to at least 10,000 of the 40,000 bikers in Sturgis.

This year, we hope to build on that.

The Sturgis Biker Mission represents the partnership of MBCB, Golden Triangle Association, and several local churches to present a Gospel witness during the annual rally. Mission partners see

GUEST OPINION:



Big ministry in a small town

By Russell Mord, pastor
Sturgis Church, Sturgis

a staggering opportunity to reach the nation through this event.

That's because bikers from all professions and parts of the country come to Sturgis. Many of them are looking for a friendly face, and many of them need Jesus. The Sturgis Biker Mission longs to give them both and to encourage them in a faith that will impact their lives and homes.

I have seen this happen for nearly a decade. I first became involved in the biker ministry seven or eight years ago through the efforts of my home church. During the years since that beginning, I have seen lost people come to Christ and Christians serving the Lord in ways they never thought possible. God has blessed the efforts.

Won't you take part in the blessing this year? There are many ways you can join in the work. In fact, the ministry you can accomplish in Sturgis is

only limited by God's word and your own imagination.

Whether you serve as an individual or as part of a group, you can be involved in one-on-one witnessing encounters with bikers and bike enthusiasts or in a project of some sort. Your group can do all kinds of projects, from a free bike wash to first aid to children's games to prayer ministry to whatever.

All that's really necessary is that you show Jesus to people.

If you want to do that, I beg you to come share in the blessing by sharing Christ with thousands of people. The mission is hoping to recruit 5,000 volunteers this year to come and do just that. Would you come and be part of this effort?

A hospitality center for bikers will be located at Sturgis Church, which is situated at the center of the rally. There

will be many opportunities to meet people and share Christ. New Testaments, tracts, and vest pins to give to bikers will be provided.

Please be in prayer for us now as we make plans to reach the many people who will hear about Jesus for the first time in Sturgis during this tremendous mission opportunity.

For more information on participating in this work, visit www.sturgisbikermission.org or email sturgis_biker_mission@hotmail.com. You may also call the Sturgis Church office at (662) 465-7420. Let us answer your questions and help you begin planning your work.

Whether you come in for a day or for the weekend, start planning as soon as possible. To get into Sturgis during the rally, you will need to park at Friendship Church on Craig Springs Road or at Wake Forest Church on Sturgis-Maben Road and carpool into town.

Materials and orientation will be at Sturgis Church on Highway 12 in Sturgis. Orientation times are at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. on August 17. There will also be orientation sessions every hour on the hour from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Friday, and from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday.

Please begin praying now for this tremendous evangelistic opportunity and how you will be involved in it.

Ruling stuns homosexual activists, groups

ALBANY, N.Y. (BP) — Handing homosexual activist groups a significant defeat, New York's highest court on July 6 upheld the state's marriage laws, ruling that homosexual marriage is an issue for the state legislature, and not the courts, to decide.

The 4-2 ruling by the New York Court of Appeals was handed down barely a month after it heard oral arguments in late May. The case involved four lawsuits brought on behalf of 44 same-sex couples in part by Lambda Legal, a homosexual legal group, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Lambda Legal and the ACLU argued that New York's marriage laws violated the state Constitution's equal protection and due process clauses. But the court disagreed.

"We hold that the New York Constitution does not compel recognition of marriages between members of the same sex," Associate Judge Robert S. Smith wrote for the court. "Whether such marriages should be recognized is a question to be addressed by the legislature."

A victory in the nation's third most populous state would have been a big one for homosexual activist groups, who are still searching for a second victory to accompany the landmark 2003 decision by the Massachusetts high court (called the Supreme Judicial Court) legalizing homosexual marriage.

Now, all eyes focus on New Jersey and Washington state, where state high courts could hand down homosexual marriage decisions any week.

Smith and his colleagues on the New York court, while not taking a position on whether the legislature should legalize homosexual marriage, said there is a rational basis for limiting marriage to heterosexuals. That rational basis, they said, can be rooted in the uniqueness of the heterosexual relationship regarding procreation.

"[T]he legislature could rationally decide that, for the welfare



of children, it is more important to promote stability, and to avoid instability, in opposite-sex than in same-sex relationships," Smith wrote. "Heterosexual intercourse has a natural tendency to lead to the birth of children; homosexual intercourse does not. Despite the advances of science, it remains true that the vast majority of children are born as a result of a sexual relationship between a man and a woman, and the legislature could find that this will continue to be true. The legislature could also find that such relationships are all too often casual or temporary."

Smith further said the legislature could decide that "it is better ... for children to grow up with both a mother and a father."

"Intuition and experience suggest that a child benefits from having before his or her eyes, every day, living models of what both a man and a woman are like," he wrote. "It is obvious that there are exceptions to this general rule — some children who never know their fathers, or their mothers, do far better than some who grow up with parents of both sexes — but the legislature could find that the general rule will usually hold."

Associate Judge Victoria A. Graffeo wrote a concurring opinion, while Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye wrote a dissenting opinion, arguing that the

court should legalize homosexual marriage. A seventh judge recused himself since his daughter, an attorney, has advocated for homosexual marriage.

"I am confident that future generations will look back on today's decision as an unfortunate misstep," Kaye wrote.

The New York decision was handed down the same day that the Georgia Supreme Court unanimously reinstated that state's constitutional marriage amendment. It had been struck down by a lower court earlier this year.

"I'm delighted that there are some state courts in our United States of America that have rediscovered their proper role of interpreting the law and the state constitution instead of seeking to impose their own personal social agenda from the bench," Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, told Baptist Press (BP). "This is a reaffirmation of government 'of the people, by the people, for the people' and should encourage all Americans that their judiciary is not beyond repair. These are victories for marriage and the nation."

The New York case had been watched closely by activists on both sides of the issue for more than a year. Within the past eight months, two intermediate New York appeals courts

upheld the state's marriage laws. One of those rulings overturned a trial court decision from February 2005 that had ruled homosexual marriage must be legalized. That decision, by New York Justice Doris Ling-Cohan, was appealed.

Chris Stovall, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund — which filed a brief on behalf of the Family Research Council supporting New York's law — applauded the court for explaining "why it's perfectly legitimate and rational" for the legislature to limit marriage to heterosexual couples.

"It's a real repudiation of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court," he told BP. "... It does provide a very important counterbalance to Goodridge [the name of the Massachusetts decision]."

Stovall added he hopes the ruling has a "ripple effect."

"They're just across the river from New Jersey," he said of New York. "New Jersey could issue their opinion any day now, but now they won't be able to do it without having this context."

Following the ruling, Lambda Legal and other homosexual activist groups urged New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to work with the legislature to legalize homosexual marriage. Both men support same-sex marriage, and Spitzer is running for the Democratic nomination for governor.

"The court's archaic reasoning is rooted in ignorance and completely contradicted by the facts of today," Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, a homosexual activist group, said in a statement. "The court threw the expert advice of child welfare professionals and years of scientific evidence out the window with its ruling against fairness... We know that the struggle for equality is never quick or easy, but history has taught us that with determination, debate and devotion — the side of progress ultimately prevails. We will continue to move forward."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JULY 13, 2006

VOL. 130

No. 27

CAC seeking cross displays

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) is requesting VHS videos/DVDs and photographs of cross displays on church property this past January that represented the babies who have been aborted since the *Roe v. Wade* decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 that legalized abortion across the country. The images will be edited to produce a video that will be presented at the 2006 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in late October.

The deadline for submitting the material is August 4. Do not send original material; returns cannot be made. Photographs must be in JPEG format if submitted via e-mail. Items may be mailed to CAC, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please mark each item with name and location of the church, dates of display, and a contact person's name and telephone number.

For more information, contact CAC at (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: rwood@christianaction.com.

Clinics dwindling

WASHINGTON (BP) — Three abortion clinics that were responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of unborn children have closed in recent weeks in the United States. The clinics were Women's Services P.C. in Omaha, Neb.; Central Women's Services in Wichita, Kan.; and Summit Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala. The closings continued a trend for abortion providers during the last two decades. The number of abortion providers in the United States has decreased by 37% since 1982, according to a 2003 report published by the Alan Guttmacher Institute. That same study showed 87% of U.S. counties do not have an abortion provider. Women's Services, whose property was purchased by the pro-life Child Saving Institute, was Omaha's only abortion clinic, LifeNews reported. The pro-life organization Operation Rescue (OR) bought the Wichita clinic and announced its closing June 29. The Birmingham clinic surrendered its license June 14 after clinic personnel allegedly told a woman in February she was only six weeks pregnant and gave her the abortion-inducing drug, after which she delivered a stillborn child who weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces, according to The News.

Looking back

10 years ago

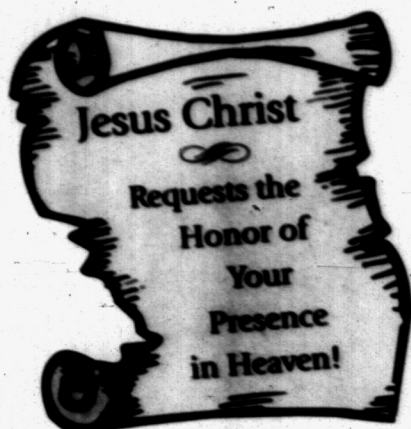
Messengers elected to the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Nominations include Phil Walker, pastor of Ridgecrest Church, Madison, and Evans Whittle, member of First Church, Tupelo.

20 years ago

Twenty-six members of Hardy Church, Grenada, camp for a searing summer week without electricity or running water in order to witness to Navajo native Americans living in a remote desert area outside Farmington, N.M.

60 years ago

For the first time ever, Mississippi Baptists gave over one million dollars in the first six months of the year to causes outside the local church. Leading churches were First Church, Canton (\$104,444); First Church, Jackson (\$31,745); and First Church, Meridian (\$23,266).



**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eter-
nal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and
rose from the grave to forgive
my sins and to restore my
relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a
loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to
become children of God, even to
those who believe in his name."
(John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiri-
tual guidance.*

GETTING RID OF THE GARBAGE CAN

This article is being written upon request. Ever so often somebody will ask me, "Why don't you write about the garbage can?" Now, these are people who 15 years or more ago read an article that I wrote as a pastor telling how I tried to throw away a garbage can. It was a true story and involved six or eight different articles, but here I will condense it to one.

Have you ever thought about how difficult it is to get rid of a garbage can? I can tell you from experience it is not easy to do, but before I tell you what happened let me give you the spiritual foundation for my writing. Oftentimes people struggle with their sin, past life, and the awkwardness of where they have been and what they have done in days gone by, even after God has forgiven them and washed them clean. The problem is like a garbage can. All the trash may have been taken away but a shell remains, a visible container where all that stuff has been. Our sins may be forgiven, the burden lifted, and all of the rubbish disposed of by the wonderful grace of our God, but then we look around and there may be places, or people, or sounds that remind us of a life marked by disobedience, sin, and hurt. It stirs those memories within us. Sometimes it is shaped by emotions and other times it is literally shaped by the physical. We want to get rid of the old containers in which our sin resided. You want to throw away all the trash and the container, but it is not easy.

I found that to be literally true when I tried to throw away a big, old, green trash container. The garbage can had been used for years. Time and rough handling



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

had worn it out. The wheels were broken off, it had holes in it, and it was time to get rid of the garbage can. One day when the garbage was supposed to be picked up I took my old trashcan and put it inside of a new good container thinking that the waste management folks would take it and leave the good one. When I came back home both the old and the new cans were sitting out in front of my house. Immediately I thought, "Well, that makes sense. How would they know that a trash can is the trash?" I dragged it back into the garage and waited for another brainstorm.

I decided the thing that I needed to do was to buy one of these huge black bags, and I would put the old garbage can down inside of it, tie it up, and surely they would take it off. *Wrong!* I went to all that trouble, set it out on the side of the road, and later when I came home I found that they had torn open the black bag, took the garbage can out, and disposed of the old black bag but I still had the old garbage container. I thought to myself, "This is absurd! How do you convince those folks to take the can?" Plan C emerged. I made a sign and taped it on the trashcan that read, "Please take this trash can — Thank You." I was sure that would do the trick, and I would be free of my old trash can. When I returned home, there it sat right in front of the house. They tore the sign off and took it with them, but left the garbage can.

I started to think that once you bought a garbage can, it was yours for eternity. I would just have to adjust my life and learn to live with it. One more time I brought it back to the garage. Then a strange thing happened. Some months later my family and I were out of town for a few days. We returned and for several days thereafter I did not even notice that the old garbage can was not there. After a while it dawned on me that it was missing. Where did it go? What in the world happened to the old garbage can? I had no idea. Nobody else seemed to know. It just vanished. Months and months passed by and one day at a social gathering at church a couple of dear friends of ours asked, "Whatever happened to the garbage can?" I told them, "I don't know. It just disappeared while we were out of town." It was then that the friend told me she had been so worried about me worrying about the garbage can, and she knew we were out of town, so she asked her husband to join with her and go steal my old garbage can. That is what they did. They took it to someone who cut it up and disposed of it.

The reason they were telling me now was because she felt so guilty about going over to my house and stealing it, and she also wanted me to know what happened to the old container. I could not believe what I was

hearing. Some friends had helped me get rid of what I could not dispose of on my own.

Now the wonder of all of this is how God in His love takes the trash out of our lives and even the residue that seems to be in the containers of some of the things that were a part of us. God has a wonderful plan and wonderful people that will fill your life, care for you, and love you so that even some of the things that you don't seem to be able to shake off immediately are eradicated. There is a serious point that I want you to understand, for some of you who are reading this have wished a thousand times that you could get rid of the garbage containers that still hang around in your life. Maybe it is the leftovers from a broken relationship or the pain of dumb decision-making. You have sought the Lord, trusted His forgiveness, but it seems like that it just finds its way back into your life at some point down the road.

I want you to know that God has wonderful ways and great people who, if given some time, will see that the garbage can is nothing but a distant, hard-to-recall memory. I am confident that many of you have containers sitting out in front of your house or around you right now. You wish they would go away. Trust God, stay faithful to Him, wait on His timing, and one day you will realize that He has been at work in you, around you, and even through others to bless you, lift your burden, and dispose of many of the things that are reminders of the waste He took away. When it happens just rejoice, smile, and say, "Thank you Lord!"

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REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Border Springs Church, Caledonia: Revival, July 23-26; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Rinehart, speaker; Charlie Farrar, music; Glen Edmonds, pastor.

Centerville Church, Soso: Homecoming, July 30; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; George Berger, speaker; Steven Smith, pastor.

Corinth Church, Singleton: Revival, July 16-20; worship, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Don Cook, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music; John Sharp, pastor.

Fairfield Church, Moselle: Homecoming, July 30; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Harold Walker Jr., speaker.

First Church, Polkville: Homecoming, July 16; morning service followed by potluck lunch; Max Price, speaker.

First Church, Satartia: Homecoming, July 16; worship, 11 a.m. (no Sunday School); revival, July 17-19, 7 p.m.; Dwight Sibley, speaker; Bill and Martha Martin, music; Bobby Anderson, pastor.

Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven: Homecoming, July 16; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; afternoon service, 1 p.m. Talmadge Smith, speaker; Dale Heard, music.

Jupiter Church, Simpson Association: Revival, July 16-19; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rodney Anderson, Mendenhall, speaker; Bruce Jolly, pastor.

Mission Hill Church, Wesson: Homecoming, July 16; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; followed by lunch and youth fund raiser silent auction, 1 p.m.; revival, July 17-19, 7 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, speaker; Tommy Purvis, pastor.

Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty: Homecoming, July 16; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Johnny Rogers, Prairieville, La., speaker; Jenny Rogers, music; Clint Penalber, pastor.

Oak Grove Church, Scott Association: Revival, July 16-19; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1:30 p.m. worship; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Paul Earley, speaker; Dan and Linda Brantley, Forest, music.

Old Hebron Church, New Hebron: Revival, July 23-28; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Mark Dunn, Jackson, Ala., and Dennis Dunn, Saraland, Ala., speakers and music; Tommy Tanner, pastor.

Pine Burr Church, Columbia: Revival, July 16-19; Sun., worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and service, 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Murphy, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music; John E. Watts, pastor.

Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven: Revival, July 16-21; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Garland Boyd, speaker; James Beasley, music; Kent Cochran, pastor.

Providence Church, Jayess: Homecoming, July 16; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Mike Alexander, morning speaker; Jim Futral, afternoon speaker; Eric Patrick, music; Ron Satterwhite, pastor.

Robinson Church, Liberty: Revival, July 14-16; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and singing; Rich Wilson, speaker; Kristi Wilson, music; W.R. Lowery, pastor.

Southside Church, Hattiesburg: 25th anniversary reunion, July 29, 10 a.m., at the Rawls Springs Community Center; bring covered dish.

Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia: Revival, July 16-19; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mark Byrd, Jackson, speaker; Harvey and Debbie Magee, Brookhaven, music; Todd Sumrall, pastor.

Topisaw Church, Bogie Chitto: Revival, July 16-21; Sun. 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Malcom Ellis, speaker; Joe Moree, music; David Moree, pastor.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 13, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

MISSISSIPPI WMU CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING 'LIVE THE CALL' - 3 LOCATIONS

FBC, SENATOBIA

AUGUST 15, 2006

No registration required
For directions to the church
call 662-562-8503

www.mbc.org, click on Events, Woman's Missionary Union,
Church Leadership Training-Central MS or call 800-748-1651, ext. 317

FBC, MCCOMB

AUGUST 29, 2006

No registration required
For directions to the church
call 601-684-2971

CAMP GARAYWA

AUGUST 25-26, 2006

Registration for meals & housing
required by Aug. 18

Featuring: Debra Berry, Mitzi Eaker
Jason & Courtney Barlow, Wyndy South



Growing Churches 2006

August 3-5, Camp Garaywa

Registration: 2 p.m., Thursday
Adjourn after lunch, Saturday

FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Office
601-292-3284 or 800-748-1651

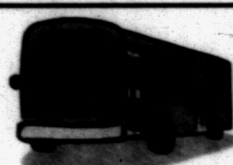
RESERVATIONS can be made by phone
with Visa/MasterCard at 601-292-3300.

Discipleship classes will be provided for preschool children and



Speaker
Argile Smith
Vice President
for Advancement
William Carey College

Discover the Joy of Missions Conference/Weekender



Mississippi wMu is sponsoring two bus trips to the Discover the Joy of Missions Conference and Missions Weekender at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center. "Bus Trip A" will be attending both the training conference and missions weekender. "Bus Trip B" will only attend the missions weekender. The cost and registration for each trip are listed. We will travel on 29 passenger buses provided by Cline Tours.

Bus Trip A Sept. 26 - Oct. 1, 2006

\$600

Bus Trip B Sept. 28 - Oct. 1, 2006

\$450

For more information contact the state wMu office: 1-800-748-1651
or check out our Web site: www.mbc.org Deadline to register: July 28

STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Crossgates BC, Brandon
July 27 - 29



Registration Deadline: July 14, 2006

(registration form on the Web)

Registration Fee: \$10

Manual: \$19 (ESL, ARW, TCY, EESL, EFL) Meals: \$6 each

- **TRACK ONE - BASIC WORKSHOPS**
Thursday, Friday and Saturday: ARW • TCY • ESL
- **TRACK TWO - 8 HOUR WORKSHOPS**
Friday and Saturday: EESL • EFL • CBS
- **TRACK THREE - SEMINARS**
(Friday and Saturday)
 - How to start a literacy mission ministry in your church or association
 - How to do a needs assessment in your community
 - Culturally speaking ... what is culturally speaking?

Send registration to Paula Smith or Alicia Hatch,
Literacy Missions Ministry, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
For more information: Paula Smith, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 336, psmith@mbcb.org.

Teacher Appreciation & PrayerWalk for Schools: SUNDAY, JULY 30

- Conduct a commitment service during the morning worship for school staff.
- Pray and commission teachers and administrators as they begin the new school year.
- Request specific prayer needs from school administrators and teachers.
- Meet at the church on Sunday afternoon to PrayerWalk and/or prayer drive around the area schools.
- Share the PrayerWalk experiences during the evening service.

For ideas and helps on PrayerWalking: Refer to the MS wMu yearbook, section 2,
pages 15-18 or visit http://www.mbc.org/events_results.aspx?ID=16

For info sheets on "Prayerwalking Local Schools for Principals,
for Pastors and for Participants"

Call: Kathy Burns in the wMu at 601-292-3324 or E-mail KBurns@mbcb.org

S P E A K U P !

Sunday School Super Saturday Conferences

Saturday, July 29, 2006
Calvary Baptist Church
Tupelo

Saturday, August 5, 2006
First Baptist Church
Clinton

Saturday, September 16, 2006
Petal-Harvey Baptist Church
Petal

Schedule: 9 a.m.-noon at each location

Each year the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board focuses on one aspect of

Flake's Formula for the Future

This year's emphasis is on

Evangelism: Be Ready to Speak Up!

"Proclaim the message; persist in it whether convenient or not." II Timothy 4:2 HCSB

CONFERENCES AVAILABLE FOR ALL AGE GROUPS PLUS GENERAL OFFICERS AND PASTOR AND STAFF. PREREGISTRATION

For more info: Contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3291, or E-mail cday@mbcb.org



NO

Mark your calendar!
More details to come ...

2006

Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office SkillShops

Lana Rose, Director
of the Ministry Office
SkillShops, will be
conducting the training
sessions. The training
sessions will be held
on October 3-5, 2006
at the Grand Gateway
Hotel in Memphis, TN.

October 3-5
Grand Gateway
Hotel



More Info: Contact Kay McDonnell, 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 305, or 601-292-3305
or E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

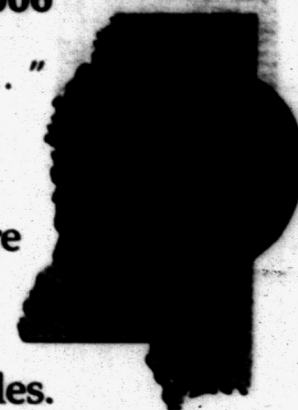
WMU MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY

(formerly LANGUAGE DAY)

Celebrate August 6, 2006

"... I will be exalted among the nations ..."
Psalm 46:10

Many nations and languages are
part of Mississippi and the U.S.
They have brought their
church traditions and worship styles.



- How do we relate?
- How do we live
THE CALL in their
presence?
- What can we learn
from how they live
THEIR CALL?

- ◆ Pray for and with them.
- ◆ Be WMU partners and participate in a mission project.
- ◆ Offer help beginning age-level organizations.
- ◆ Applaud what God is accomplishing through language churches!

God has work for all of us to do!

WMU has resources in Basic English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, French and Vietnamese.

For a list of Multicultural Resources and other information, please visit www.mbc.org and go to wMu or call Paula Smith at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 336.

Baptist Family Gathering III

"Let's Get the Baptist Family Together" in 2006

Children's Rally

Richland Community Center
(right behind Wal-Mart)

Sunday, August 13, 6:00 p.m.

SPEAKER
John Yates, Enterprise, Ala.

Youth Rally



FBC
Florence

Sunday, August 13, 6:00 p.m.

SPEAKER: Jon Gillis
Elife Ministries, Georgia

PRAISE LEADER
George Fields
CSP, Kentucky

ADULT RALLY

First Baptist Church
Richland
August 13, 6:00 p.m.

WORSHIP LEADER
Mark Celoria
FBC, Richland

For info, contact: MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry or
Rankin County Baptist Association

You are invited

"Prepare the Way" - Isaiah 43:16-19

STATE WOMEN'S RETREAT

OCTOBER 13-14, 2006

Camp Garaywa

*Calling all women to come refresh,
relax, reflect, renew and restore.*

SPECIAL GUEST
JEAN CULLEN

Leading CWJC breakout
sessions and more!



FEATURING
KAY DEKALB SMITH

Christian singer and comedian, Nashville, Tennessee. Kay travels extensively sharing her unique gift of laughter and song. She takes seriously the Biblical wisdom that a merry heart does good like medicine. Kay will "doctor" our Spirits with God's truth.

COSTS:

- **REGISTRATION FEE:** \$15
- **LODGING:** Patterson Place (per person) \$35 (1 per room); \$30 (2 per room); \$25 (3 per room); \$20 (4 per room)
- **MEALS:** \$8 dinner; \$6 lunch; \$7 breakfast

Registration Deadline: Friday, October 6, 2006

*If you would like a brochure, E-mail
kburns@mbcb.org or call Lisa at 601-292-3314.*

Theme

Special Ministries Retreat

September 29-30

Camp Garaywa

For exceptional persons (12 yrs. and older), their pastors/ministers, parents, teachers & friends
GAMES, BIBLE STUDY, SINGING, MOVIES AND LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!

Registration begins at 3 p.m. on Sept. 29 and the retreat concludes at 1 p.m. on Sept. 30. Cost includes overnight lodging and three meals. One adult counselor for every five campers of the same sex.

More info? Call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or E-mail: jellis@mbcb.org

REGISTRATION FORM - SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Church _____
Address _____
Contact person _____
No. of campers _____ M _____ F
No. of counselors _____ M _____ F

Cost: \$37.50 per person
Due by Sept. 15
Payable to MBCB
Mail to: Special Ministries
Sunday School Dept., P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

Pray this day for...

July 14-27, 2006

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"God loves importunate (persistent) prayer so much that He will not give us much blessing without it."

Adoniram Judson

Recently as one Sokoto Fulani Team member of Niger sat with a group of Fulani men, telling the story of the Good Shepherd, one man responded, "We know there are two roads. One way leads to the other is Jesus. We should be on the Jesus road, but we need someone to come tell us the whole story."

For: (1) GA/Acteens Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 17th-21st (WMU); (2) Summer Mission Camp for Boys, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, 17th-21st (MM); (3) Young Musicians Camp, Blue Mountain College, 17th-21st (CM); (4) II Centrifuge, Mississippi College, Clinton, 17th-22nd (LGR/SBC).

A young Christian, T., 27 years old, was baptized a year ago in Fukuoka, Japan. She is struggling with her family. Her mother says it is okay for T. to have her "own God," but Jesus is special. Her sister makes fun of her Christian life. Pray that T. will not lose heart but will fix her eyes on Jesus.

The Kui Team of Thailand asks: "Please pray for Mr. P., a Kui teacher, assisting with many English camps. We shared the Gospel with him when he asked, 'How can I be forgiven?' We gave him a Bible and CD in his language. Pray that his questions will be answered and that he will trust in Christ."

For: (1) CentriKid, William Carey College, 20th-22nd; (2) Ronnie Reynolds, is an associational missionary and church start-up agent for the Northeast Iowa Association. Pray for God to provide 24 summer missionaries, an MSC couple and 15 church mission groups to cultivate the new church planting communities.

For: (1) WMU Executive Board, Camp Garaywa, 14th-15th (invitation only) (WMU); (2) Dad/Dad Weekend, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, 14th-15th (MM); (3) The economic situation and political turmoil in Egypt is worsening. Please pray that God will use these hard times to call all Alexandrians to Himself.

Rick Coram, Jacksonville, Fla., a COSBE member, is founder of Rick Coram Ministries, Inc. Pray for the 40+ revivals he preaches yearly, plus two weeks of summer student camps and an adult Bible Conference in July. Pray that his voice stays strong, and for God's anointing at each revival.

Mark Haley is a chaplain serving in Hawaii. Pray for God's love to be evident in the military operations of Pearl Harbor, specifically the submarine force. Pray for the lay leaders (Christian leaders appointed on each boat) to be bold in their witness as they work with the sailors.

For: (1) Church Compliance & Financial Issues, FBC, Winona (FS); (2) Summer Mission Camp for Boys, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, 24th-28th (MM); (3) GA Camp, Camp Garaywa, 24th-28th (WMU); (4) Young Musicians Camp, Blue Mountain College, 24th-28th (CM); (5) III Centrifuge, Mississippi College, 24th-29th.

Recently missionary Russ Bare visited a Shuar village, Nuevo Horizonte, in the Ecuador jungle. "When we reached the village, one of the men J. invited us to his house, where he had been studying the Bible. He needed help understanding what he was reading. We joyfully complied. J., has been a believer about a year. Pray for the Shuar outreach."

Jamie Bridgeman, Tawas City, Mich., is a Nehemiah church planter pastor. Pray for God to provide leadership for key ministries in his church plant, to keep Jamie and his team focused, and to give them wisdom and discernment. Also pray for the lost as the church shares the Gospel.

"Numerous Asheninka communities of Peru have no Christian witness. The Lord is opening doors for the Asheninka Strategy Group to enter these communities with the truth of God's Word. Pray as we build upon ministry begun in the community of Pennsylvania and as we begin in Galilea."



DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING for Chaplains and Pastors

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

MBCB, Skyroom, 8:30 A.M. - 3:15 P.M.

COST - \$5.00

8:30-9:00 a.m. Registration, Skyroom
9:00-9:10 a.m. Welcome, Skyroom
9:10-10:30 a.m. General Group, Skyroom
10:30-10:45 a.m. Break
10:45-11:45 a.m. Session I

SCHEDULE:

Basic Disaster Relief Chaplaincy
Mickey Caison: Room 209
Advanced Disaster Relief Chaplaincy
Paul Cassibry & Charles Lipe: Room 406

11:45-12:45 p.m. Lunch
12:45-3:00 p.m. Session II
3:00-3:15 p.m. Closing Remark, Skyroom
3:15 p.m. Dismiss

INTRODUCTION: A brief history of chaplaincy and its need as a ministry in Hurricane Hugo to September 11 to Hurricane Katrina as seen through the eyes of a pastor, a disaster relief command person, and as a victim.

BASIC DISASTER RELIEF CHAPLAINCY: A program designed to inform new chaplains or pastors about the uniqueness of crisis ministry in disasters. An overview of a crisis response in the area of what constitutes a crisis response, different types of disasters, and how ministry is performed. A brief look will be given to identifying the victims.

ADVANCED DISASTER RELIEF CHAPLAINCY: A program that is in-depth in teaching about human needs and development, an overview of the trauma response, the art of story listening, crisis intervention models, compassion in crisis and comforting grief in disasters and ministry in the midst of diversity.

For more info, contact MBCB Men's Ministry at 601-292-3334 or 1-800-748-1651.

9-9-95

MISS EMILY C. HEWITT
Parents: Earl and Ramona Hewitt
West Africa: Medicine

9-16-86

MR. MICHAEL R. HOLYFIELD
Parents: Michael and Patricia Holyfield
Central & Eastern Europe: Church Planting

9-21-92

MR. DERRICK A. DeMARS
Parents: Guy and Cindy DeMars
West Africa: Hospitality Coordinators

9-21-00

MR. JOSEPH C. PRICE
Parents: Richard and Christi Price
Central and Eastern Europe: Medicine

9-27-01

MISS MAEGAN K. PUTNAM
Parents: Tracy and Eugenia Putnam
Central and Eastern Europe: Theological Education

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

Encourage
an MK
with a
card today!

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Youth Baptized, Vardaman Church, Kemper County



2. Thomas and Ostrander, Eastwood Church, Indianola

1. **Vardaman Church, Kemper County**, recently baptized four youth. Pastor Josh Meadows presented Marlee Rhodes, Tanner Rhodes, Alex Michelletti, and Eric Michelletti with new study Bibles and Survival Kits.
2. **Eastwood Church, Indianola**, licensed David Ostrander to the ministry June 4. Shown are pastor Billy R. Thomas (Ostrander's grandfather) and Ostrander.
3. **Bolton Church, Bolton**, recently ordained Billy Thomas as deacon. Shown are Thomas and pastor Jackie Barnes.
4. Youth and adults of **Sunrise Church, Carthage**, recently took a canoe trip on the Okatoma River. Shown are the participants.
5. **Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle**, will host a gospel sing featuring The McRaes July 30, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.
6. **R.E. Thompson** has recently retired from the music ministry and is now residing in Petal. He is available for supply or interim. He may be reached at (601) 270-8166 or rethom@earthlink.net.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

www.mbc.org

William Carey to formalize name change on Aug. 14

William Carey University (WCU) will hold a special convocation on August 14 at 10 a.m. to formally announce the change of the institution's name to William Carey University. The convocation will be held in the Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus.

"On this special day we honor all of those who in our hundred year history invested their lives and resources in this beloved institution," said President Larry Kennedy. "We honor thousands of alumni, past presidents, faculty and staff, and faithful donors and supporters of William Carey. We honor residents of the area, Mississippi Baptists, and friends who through the decades realized the importance of maintaining a faith-based college in south Mississippi."

WCU is celebrating its 100th anniversary throughout 2006. Kicked off with Homecoming in January 2006, the university has planned other centennial events including the release of a pictorial history of the institution in October.

"As we begin the second century of our existence, we will continue to expect great things from God and attempt great things for God," said Tommy King, executive vice president.

For the convocation, faculty and special guests will dress in regalia, formal caps and gowns, and march into the auditorium preceded by the hand-crafted university mace and banners representing each school.

"We are so excited to share this momentous event being held during our Centennial with our students on the very first day of school," said Jeanna Graves, Office for Advancement. "There is a pageantry to a formal convocation and this name change is certainly the perfect occasion for a formal event." Although already voted on by the Board of Trustees and approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, August 14 will be the date the official name becomes William Carey University.

An outdoor reception will be held for students and another reception in the Lucile Parker Gallery will be held for faculty, staff and special guests following the service. Classes that routinely begin at 8 a.m. will meet on time and release early at 8:45. Classes that routinely begin at 10:10 a.m. will meet at 8:55 a.m. and release early at 9:40 a.m. This revised schedule is only effective on August 14.

Friends of the university are invited to attend this event. For more information call (601) 318-6192. WCU is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

SPEAK UP!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPER SATURDAY CONFERENCES

Saturday, July 29 • Calvary BC, Tupelo

Saturday, Aug. 5 • FBC, Clinton

Saturday, Sept. 16 • Petal-Harvey BC, Petal
Schedule: 9a.m. - noon at each location

Each year the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board focuses on one aspect of Flake's Formula for the Future. This year's emphasis is on Evangelism: Be Ready to Speak Up!

Conferences available for all age groups plus general officers and pastor and staff. No pre-registration
Electives offered at all three locations:

- *Involving Parents in Preschool Ministry*
- *How to Talk to a Child about Salvation*
- *Youth Reaching Youth*
- *What Do I Do Now? Using Evangelism Tools*
- *Care Group Ministry*

Saturday: July 29, 2006

Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo

Preschool: Tracey Rogers
LifeWay Resources • Nashville, TN

Children: Paula Dangar

Mt. Vernon • Atlanta, GA

Youth: Marilyn Bullman

Sharon FBC • Laurel, MS

Younger Adult: Darrol Hood

FBC • Frostproof, FL

Older Adult: Glenn Shows

MS Baptist Convention Board • Jackson, MS

General Officer: Kiely Young

MS Baptist Convention Board • Jackson, MS

One Won 1: P.J. Scott

FBC Ripley, MS

Saturday: August 5, 2006

First Baptist Church, Clinton

Preschool: Alan Wilson

Longview Heights • Olive Branch

Children: Kimberly Harris

West Cobb • Powder Springs, GA

Youth: Marilyn Bullman

Sharon FBC • Laurel, MS

Younger Adult: Joseph McNilder

Kempville • Virginia Beach, VA

Older Adult: Wayne Ward

FBC Columbia, MS

General Officer: Kiely Young

MS Baptist Convention Board • Jackson, MS

One Won 1: Mike Aultman

Military • Sumrall

Saturday: September 16, 2006

Petal-Harvey Baptist Church, Petal

Preschool: Jeff Land

Joelton FBC • Joelton, TN

Children: Sue Harmon

SC Baptist Convention • Columbia, SC

Youth: Marilyn Bullman

Sharon FBC • Laurel, MS

Younger Adult: Kimberly Harris

West Cobb • Powder Springs, GA

Older Adult: Bill Hawks

Highland Colony • Ridgeland, MS

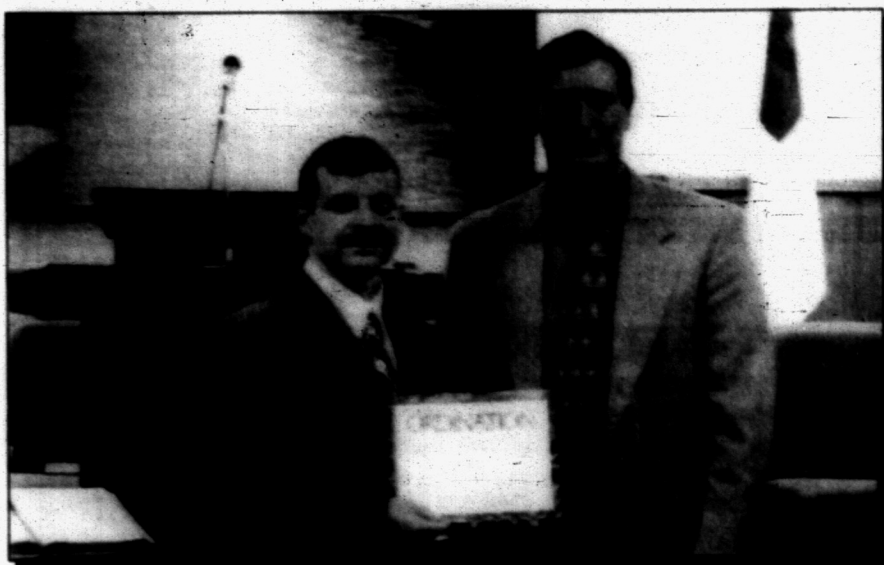
General Officer: Kiely Young

MS Baptist Convention Board • Jackson, MS

One Won 1: Mike Aultman

Military • Sumrall

For more information contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1661, ext. 291 or in Jackson at 601-292-3291 or email cday@mbcb.org.



3. Thomas and Barnes, Bolton Church, Bolton



4. Canoe Trip on the Okatoma, Sunrise Church, Carthage

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

I Will Follow God's Leading

Ex. 13:17-18, 20-22; 14:5-6, 10, 13-14; 14:31 - 15:2, 11-13

By Les Colvin

My wife and I recently took a trip traveling by plane. On the flight home, there was some bad weather and our pilot had to go around a storm, making the trip longer than expected. In addition, we had a five hour layover at one airport while we waited for more rain to pass over. We had to take the long way around and had a long, drawn out trip, but we were grateful for alert and qualified pilots who brought us safely home. Sometimes, taking the long way around and waiting is the best thing for us.

Our Christian life is much the same. We can trust and know that God will guide us as we follow His leading in our lives. Moses and the Israelites learned this important lesson as they fled Egypt.

God Takes Into Account Our Weakness (Ex. 13:17-18)

After the plagues that were placed on Egypt, Pharaoh finally let the people go (13:31-32). In this passage, God taught the Israelites two important lessons. First, the shortest way is not always the best. God sent them the long way around. God knew the rough road that was ahead and He knew the Israelites were not prepared for it. We usually want to take the "shortcut" in life. Shortcuts don't always work in the physical world, and never our spiritual lives. God allows detours in our lives to protect us from harm. The second lesson is that going through the wilderness can be the best thing for us. It is on the "Road of the Wilderness" that God teaches



Colvin

us dependence upon Him and where we learn to follow His leading in our lives.

God Gives His Constant Presence (Ex. 13:20-22)

The Israelites had left the harshness and trials of Egypt behind. They were embarking into new, unknown territory. However, they were not alone. The Lord was with them to guide them with His constant presence. All through Scripture, we have the promise of God's presence in our lives. Jesus said in the Great Commission, "...I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20). God promised in Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." There are three primary functions of God's presence in our lives. First, is the example in this passage that God's presence guides and leads us. His presence will lead us in "paths of righteousness." Second, God's presence is a comfort to His children in times of difficulty (Isaiah 43:2). Third, God's presence can be a warning

to sinners (Gen. 3:8). It is not pleasant, but it is a necessary aspect of our Christian life.

God Fights For His People (Ex. 14:5-6, 10, 13-14)

As Pharaoh changes his mind and decides to pursue the Israelites, they become terrified. Pharaoh is after them and they are afraid for their lives. They forgot that the God who had carried them this far would continue to protect them. Moses reminds the people and us of God's protection in three ways. First, he says, "Don't be afraid." Second, he admonishes them to "Stand Firm." Third, he says, "see the Lord's salvation." Moses is saying to them and God says to us, "Watch and see how I am going to provide for and protect you." We serve a mighty God. God promises us in 1 John 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

God Guides Believers with Strength (Ex. 14:31-15:2, 11-13)

After seeing God deliver them, notice the response of the

people. When God does a work for us or in us, there should be a natural response of His children. First, the people feared the Lord. Second, they "believed in Him." God's acts on our behalf should lead to increased faith in Him. The more we allow Him to work in our lives, the more we will believe and trust Him. Third, they worshipped Him. Ex. 15:1-21 is a beautiful song of worship and thanksgiving to the Lord for His deliverance. Our response to God's working in our lives should always lead to our worship and praise of Him. As we read through these verses, look at the many descriptions of God that are given.

Through Israel's flight from Egypt and Pharaoh, they learned new truths about God and what He offered for them. Our experiences too can teach us about God and lead us to trust His leading in our lives and bring us to a place of reverence and worship of Him.

Colvin is Minister of Education/Administrator at First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Submit to the Sovereign Lord

Job 38:1-4; 42:1-12a

By Ginger M. Caughman

The Lord is God! "If God were small enough to be understood, He would not be big enough to be worshipped" (Evelyn Underhill).

When we choose to receive Christ as Savior and Lord of our lives, we are His followers, submitting to His Sovereign Lordship. For me this means seeking to daily die spiritually to self and submitting to His will for my life. I don't always do this for I sometimes try to do things my own way.

Job challenges us all in this final lesson of the book to resolve to submit to God at all times. God speaks (Job 38-40) and Job responds (Job 40:3-5). God speaks again, (Job 40:6-41:34). Job submits (42:1-6) and is restored (42:7-17).

Jennifer Rothschild, a Christian singer, songwriter, author, wife and mother, has since age 15, been blind! She doesn't like to be defined by her blindness but considers it another facet of her life in Christ. Having recently traveled through airports, I thought of Jennifer who often flies alone to speaking and singing engagements. What courage. Jennifer has submitted to the Sovereign Lord Jesus! Read her inspiring testimony in "Touched by His Unseen Hand: Recognizing the Fingerprints of God On Your Life," (Multnomah, 2003).

Prayer Power is another topic addressed in the last portion of Job (Job 42:7-9). After suffering with Job through this study, enjoy these beautiful phrases: God said: "My servant Job"; "the Lord accepted Job's prayer"; and "Job prayed



Caughman

for his friends" (vv. 7b, 8b, 9b). How vitally important and effective is the ministry of intercessory prayer! We all have the opportunity and responsibility to pray for one another. Thank you and praise God for the many who prayed for this ministry opportunity. Job obeyed God by interceding for his friends who had spoken falsely about God.

"We show our submission to God by relying confidently on Him to meet our needs, even when things go terribly wrong. Suffering may be mysterious but it need not rob people of their faith in the sovereign, loving God of all."

Billy Graham has written, "When troubles and suffering come, our minds naturally focus on them. It takes a deliberate act of the will to turn away from the problem and focus our minds on God." The prophet Isaiah declares, "God will keep us in perfect peace when our mind is steadfast on Him" (Isaiah 26:3). Focus on God!

When we choose to trust God, Elisabeth Elliot teaches us, "This choice has nothing to do with mood but is a deliberate act of laying hold of the character of God." In the midst of terrible circumstances, "when we turn our eyes back to the cross of Calvary we see the irrefutable proof that has stood all the tests of the ages. 'By this we know what love is for Christ has laid down His life for us.'" ("On Asking God Why," Revell, 1989, p. 149).

Job had heard of God but he reached that day when he could say, "Now my eyes have seen You!" (Job 42:5 NIV). Have you seen God? Vance Havner wrote, "Too many of us are living on spiritual canned goods instead of produce from our own garden. There is value and blessing in learning from others but it is second-hand" ("Peace in the Valley," p. 66). When have you seen the Lord?

The Lord made Job prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before. His latter life was blessed more than the first (Job 42:10-17). In the challenging book of James,

God promises: "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised for those who love him" (James 1:12). My pastor, Dr. Buddy Keyes, called this verse, "a beatitude of blessing and comfort."

What have you learned during this study? G. K. Chesterton called the Book of Job, "one of the colossal cornerstones of the world."

I have learned anew to trust God more. Think through your spiritual markers. God leads Christians the way we need to go to learn to depend on Him as He molds us more and more into the image of Christ. To God be the glory!

In your Baptist Hymnal, notice the Biblical reference, Job 19:25 with the hymn, "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth" (#122-c, 1975 or #191-c1991) and ponder the words.

"The Lord is God!" Praise His Holy Name!

Caughman teaches Sunday School and sings in the choir at First Church, Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Coldwater Church, Philadelphia, held its VBS June 21-24. Shown are the participants.



Coldwater Church, Philadelphia

Cornerstone Church, Purvis, is presenting Bethlehem Village, a re-creation of the rural village of Bethlehem. Families participating will visit the marketplace, play authentic games, sample Middle Eastern snacks, and learn about prophecies of the savior. A preview will be held July 15, 6:30-8 p.m., with free food, fun, and games and pre-register for the event. Then, the event will be held nightly July 24-28, 6:30-8:30 p.m., and is open for anyone ages 4-adult. For more information, call pastor Brian Williamson at (601) 408-7017.

Vacation Bible School, **Grandview Church, Pearl,** July 16-19; Sun., 5:30-8 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., supper, 6 p.m. and activities until 8:30 p.m.; 3 yrs.-6th grade.

Vacation Bible School, **Euclatubba Church, Saltillo:** July 17-21, 6:30-8:30 p.m. with graduation ceremonies on Friday. Those wishing to attend may register online at e-baptist.org; click on "what's new."

Vacation Bible School, **Salem Church, Carthage,** July 17-21; 6-9 p.m.; ages 3-up.

Vacation Bible School, **Tishomingo Church, Alcorn County,** July 16-21; Sun.-Thurs., 5:30 p.m.; Fri., family night, 6 p.m.; kindergarten-12th grade.

COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College welcomes new students during Welcome Week Aug. 19-25. Activities introduce freshmen and transfer students to campus life at MC. During the week students will meet new people, learn ways to be involved on campus, and enjoy food and fun. For information or questions, call: Lauren Hodges, Campus Activities Board — (601) 925-3242; or, Heidi Cheatham, Student Activities Coordinator — (601) 925-3830.



Sentell

Ed Sentell, Clinton, Associate Professor of Business Law, was chosen by the Mississippi College School of Law Student Board to receive the 2006 Outstanding Teaching Award. The Student Board cited his reputation among his students for his outstanding class preparation, the wealth of practical applications he brings to the classroom, his organization and structure in preparing classroom lectures, his willingness to "be there for the student," and the exacting standards he sets for his students.

Schoolhouse Rock Live!, a musical comedy based upon the television series which opens on July 11 on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College, is the second production of Carey Dinner Theater's thirty-first season. It will be presented nightly except Sunday and Monday, July 11 through 22. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. in the O. L. Quave Theatre, with the performance following. The box office is open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily except Sunday, and seats may be reserved by calling (601) 318-6221. The admission price of \$25 includes dinner and the show.

William Carey College director of intercollegiate athletics and head men's basketball coach Steve Knight was selected the 2005-2006 GeneralSports TURF Systems Athletic Director of the Year NAIA Southeast Region. Knight was honored during the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics 41st Annual Convention held recently in New Orleans.



Knight

Columbia Primary School principal Gayle Knight has been named registrar at William Carey University and will begin her tenure in July on the Hattiesburg campus. Knight spent 33 years in public education as a teacher, librarian and principal in Columbia.

William Carey University launched the public phase of its capital campaign for a gallery to house the Sarah Gillespie Collection. The gallery will be built on the Hattiesburg campus, after the gallery on Carey's Gulfport campus was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. During a luncheon, information about the collection was made available. A gift of \$50,000 by the Chisholm Foundation of Laurel was announced. Anyone interested in donating to the campaign can contact Iris Easterling at iris.easterling@wmcarey.edu or (601) 318-6148.

EVANGELISM BIBLE CONFERENCES — 2006 — JAMES E. MESSER MINISTRIES

Sunday 7/23 thru Wednesday 7/26
8:15am, 10:45am & 7:00pm Sun • 7:00pm M-W

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• Scheduled Speakers •

Sunday 8:15/10:45am & 7:00pm • Emir Caner • Dean
The College at Southwestern • Former Muslim

Monday 7:00pm • Toby Frost • Director
Strategic Evangelism Coordination NAMB, SBC

Tuesday 7:00pm • Fred Luter, Jr • Pastor
Franklin Avenue Baptist Church • New Orleans, LA

Wednesday 7:00pm • John Avant • Vice President
of Evangelization, North American Mission Board, SBC

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Phil Willis • John Yates
Sons of the Father

Music Director • Phil Willis
Music Evangelist • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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2006 Men's Ministry State Leadership Training Central Hills, August 11-12

Friday, August 11

6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
8:30 p.m.

Supper

Opening Session — Curtis Lodge, Speaker Jim Phillips

Session 1 (choose one)

- Introduction to Southern Baptist
- Disaster Relief (Multi-purpose Room 2)
- Men's Fraternity (Infirmary Meeting Area)
- Leading Baptist Men (Curtis Lodge)
- Challengers Leader Training (Multi-purpose Room 1)

Saturday, August 12

7:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m.

Breakfast

Session 2 (choose one)

- Survey of chainsaw, clean-up, and sheltering (Multi-purpose Room 2)
- Building an effective leadership team (Curtis Lodge)
- Royal Ambassador leader training (Multi-purpose Room 1)

9:30 a.m.

Session 3 (choose one)

- Survey of chainsaw, clean-up, and sheltering (Multi-purpose Room 2)
- Life Changing ministries and missions (Curtis Lodge)
- Royal Ambassador leader training — continued (Multi-purpose Room 1)
- Questions and Answers for Men's Ministry (Lobby, Camp Center Building - near cafeteria)

11:00 a.m.

Closing session — Curtis Lodge, Speaker: Rob Carr

Cost is \$25 per person — includes meals, lodging, and all sessions. Each participant should bring linens, sleeping bag and a pillow.

REGISTRATION FORM

2006 Men's Ministry State Leadership Training Central Hills, August 11-12

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number(s) _____

Church _____

Mail form and payment to Men's Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.